



City of Rowlett
Special Work Session Minutes
City Council Budget Workshop

4000 Main Street
Rowlett, TX 75088
www.rowlett.com

City of Rowlett City Council meetings are available to all persons regardless of disability. If you require special assistance, please contact the City Secretary at 972-412-6115 or write 4000 Main Street, Rowlett, Texas, 75088, at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Thursday, August 16, 2012

6:30 P.M.

Municipal Building –
4000 Main Street

As authorized by Section 551.071 of the Texas Government Code, this meeting may be convened into closed Executive Session for the purpose of seeking confidential legal advice from the City Attorney on any agenda item herein.

The City of Rowlett reserves the right to reconvene, recess or realign the Regular Session or called Executive Session or order of business at any time prior to adjournment.

Present: Mayor Gottel, Mayor Pro Tem Phillips, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Gallops, Councilmember Davis, Councilmember Pankratz, Councilmember Miller and Councilmember Kilgore

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Gottel called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

2. WORK SESSION

2A. Discussion of the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013.

Prior to the presentation by staff, members of the City Council complimented staff on the budget and the process.

Staff began the meeting with a statement regarding the Senior Tax Exemption. Stated there will not be a change for next year and those seniors that are currently receiving the Senior Tax Freeze exemption will not see a change as the exemption is a permanent adjustment.

Staff began the presentation by stating there are several policy decisions related to this budget that are significant. First, to allow a two-year bridge strategy in the General Fund. Second, to allow staff to use freed up bond capacity for operational purposes. Third, a recommendation to provide a 3% raise to employees effective April 1, 2013. Fourth, to increase water rates to provide an additional \$2 million for capital maintenance. Lastly, to use freed up bond capacity in the Utility Fund to issue \$8.5 million in bonds to address the Upper Pressure Water Zone.

The conversation continued with discussion concerning the General Fund. The overall revenues in the General Fund are projected to be \$32,606,990 in FY2013. Staff spoke regarding each of the following: property taxes; sales taxes; franchise fees; licenses and permits; fees and charges; fines and forfeitures; and internal transfers.

Staff stated the total expenditures in the General Fund are projected to be \$32,727,568 in FY2013. Spoke regarding personnel costs; improved efficiencies at the Wet Zone and the Rowlett Community Centre; volunteerism and capital equipment.

Staff focused on answering an email from a Councilmember with a series of questions regarding comparing departmental budgets from FY11 spending to the FY13 proposed budget.

The discussion continued with the Enterprise Funds. Staff spoke regarding the Utility Fund including revenues; water charges; sewer charges; and other revenue.

Members of Council stated the rate increases are essential for the infrastructure.

The discussion continued with the Enterprise Funds expenditures including potential revenue bonds. Spoke concerning the Refuse Fund, the Drainage Fund, and other governmental funds. No comments were made concerning the Two-Year Capital Improvement Plan, the Two-Year Street/Alley Maintenance Plan or the Two-Year Water and Sewer Maintenance Plan.


Staff stated the FY2013 budget continues to remain focused on "citizen-centered" government, while continuing to create a level of affordable sustainability for the organization. There will be no tax increase in FY2013. The working fund balances and minimum fund balances will be met and maintained at all times. Managed competition and/or outsourcing will be considered on a limited basis in FY2013, as determined by the City Manager. The Enterprise funds will stand on their own. If fees for service do not provide a positive contribution margin at a minimum, such programs will be considered for elimination or privatization. And perceptions by the citizens of Rowlett is important. Every city employee will be centered on customer service at all times.

Members of Council commented on the productive discussion and transparent budget. Stated future discussion will need to occur regarding tax increases.

Consensus was reached to cancel the scheduled meetings for Friday, August 17th and Saturday, August 18th.

3. ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Gottel adjourned the meeting at 7:59 p.m.



Todd W. Gottel, Mayor

Stacey Chadwick, Interim City Secretary

Date Approved: September 4, 2012